



The Avocet

TIME VALUE

VOLUME XVIII, Number 6

June 1971

ANNUAL MEETING: STEVENS CREEK PARK

The annual meeting for members and their guests will be THURSDAY, JUNE 3, in Stevens Creek Park, 5 p.m. to dusk, in the Sycamore picnic area. It will be an informal affair with a brief meeting to elect and install the Society's board and officers for the coming year. So, bring your own picnic, look at the birds, walk the nature trail, or just relax and watch the children play in the creek.

Most should take Highway 280 and exit on Foothill Expressway Los Altos, then on Foothill Blvd. toward the hills to Stevens Canyon Rd. continuing on past the reservoir and through the park entrance. The gate to the Sycamore picnic area will be on the left just past picnic area #2 (and before Mt. Eden Rd.). Members from Saratoga may wish to take winding Mt. Eden Rd. (off Pierce) and turn to the right soon after the junction with Stevens Canyon Road.

This is the last general meeting until September. The exact date and program will be announced in the Avocet.

--Ken Kidd, Program Chairman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| June 3 <u>ANNUAL MEETING</u> , Thurs. 5 p.m. to dusk, Sycamore Picnic area, Stevens Creek Park. Bring picnic dinner. (Details above.) | June 9 <u>CANYON DRIVE</u> , Saratoga, Wed., 9 a.m. Meet at 6th St. and Big Basin Way, Saratoga. Leader: Catherine Lintott, 356-4264. |
| June 5 <u>YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK</u> . Sat, 7 a.m. Meet at entrance to Bridalveil Campground on road to Glacier Pt. Plan for an unforgettable weekend with Leader: Joe Greenberg, 326-8120, between 8 & 5. | July 17 <u>SAN DIEGO PELAGIC TRIP</u> , Sat. 5:30 a.m. (Details pg. 6) |
| | August 12 <u>AVOCET DEADLINE</u> . The Avocet will resume publication in September. Have a wonderful summer! |

REPRIEVE FOR WILDLIFE REFUGE???

Only a few weeks ago, the proposal to establish a San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in the South Bay seemed about to go under for the third time. Representative John Dingell, Chairman Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Subcommittee of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries had announced that this subcommittee would not hold hearings this year on HR 111, the bill to establish the refuge, because the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) of the Department of Interior had not completed its report on the proposed refuge. Thus everything seemed to hinge on the whereabouts of the BOR report. However, no information could be turned up about the status of the report, and the cause seemed lost for this year.

Then in the first week of May, three events occurred in rapid succession to revive hope for the establishment of the refuge.

(Continued page 3)

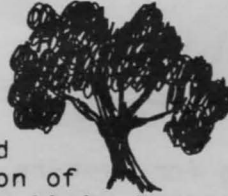
ENDANGERED SPECIES

It is not just animals which are endangered species. Habitat changes by man and intrusion of introduced species may locally or regionally eliminate plant forms. A case in point is our deciduous White Oak, Quercus Lobata. It is infrequently planted in local cities and seems not to be reproducing itself even in the wild.

Many people were originally attracted to this region because of the beauty of the land and especially the beauty of the native oaks. Yet present planting policies are gradually changing the character of the area. Plantings on our streets and parks are producing a coniferous forest rather than enhancing the native Oak Woodland. Laws protect the indigenous animals and birds from marauding citizens, but the trees and shrubs will be the critical factor which determines their survival. A number of our birds are adapted to secure their sustenance within the confines of the Oak Woodland, and if we continue to plant only exotics (even if we preserve the existing native trees) there will be eventually no natives, since species which do not reproduce are gradually extinguished.

If you doubt that this can happen to your city, visit our neighbor Oakland, and look around for the oaks (and for the Acorn Woodpeckers, Plain Titmice, Downy Woodpeckers and other birds expected in the oak belt.

In most cities it is not too late to reverse this shortsighted planting policy. Work with your local government leaders, youth groups and garden clubs to encourage planting of oaks and other native species on our streets, homes and parks. Begin at home. White oak acorns germinate readily and produce trees of good size in five years. This oak is one of our best long-lived shade trees, and the roots do not cause problems to driveways and sidewalks. You can expect your young oak to grow about two feet a year (if watered), and no water is needed after five years.



BOARD NOTES

.Approved changes in the Bylaws, to take effect at the June Annual Meeting. Highlights: 1. Entire membership will elect officers (in the past, the board elected the officers). 2. The immediate Past-President will be a board member in the year following his office. 3. Board members who miss more than three board meetings in one year will be replaced.

.Voted to request the Committee Chairmen to write a summary of the duties of their committees; the summaries to be sent to the new President by June 30.

.Voted to endorse the proposed bill, AB 1057 (Knox & Marks) which would establish a Regional Environmental Agency in the 9 Bay Area counties and to join AREA, the organization which was formed to promote the bill. (See page 5)

NOMINATED FOR OFFICERS

President: Bob Hassur
V. Pres: Ken Kidd
Secretary: Diane Conradson
Treasurer: Joyce Todd

NOMINATED FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Joyce Todd
Tony Look
Ron Stecker

Further nominations can be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

If U.S. Population continues to grow at only 1% per year for 3 centuries, our population would total over 3.25 BILLION, 16 times as many people as we now have.

(Population Bulletin)

WILDLIFE REFUGE (CONTINUED)

.Senator Alan Cranston announced at a press conference in the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Interpretive Center that he would introduce a bill in the Senate to establish the refuge.

.Rep. John Dingell gave verbal assurances, via Rep. Don Edward's office, that he definitely will hold hearings on HR 111 in June of this year.

.The Nature Conservancy sent word that it had arranged for a meeting in Washington on May 13 of top-level officials from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and other involved organizations to ensure that all necessary reports from the Department of the Interior will be available to Congress in time for the June hearings.

These events seem to augur well for the proposed refuge, but...all we have so far are a series of promises.. promises and action, as we are all too aware, are often two different things.

Until something more concrete happens, the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Committee intends to keep applying pressure on our elected representatives by means of the letter-writing campaign started in April. LETTERS--many letters in support of HR 111 and of Cranston's forthcoming bill are needed to let our congressmen

know that we want action, not just promises. Letters written by individuals at home, or at letter-writing parties and letters from political and conservation organizations are all vitally important right now. If you have been thinking of writing or of holding a letter-writing party, but haven't gotten around to it, please do it now! If we miss this opportunity, we very well may not have another.

MONEY, always important, is now critically important to realization of the refuge. The Nature Conservancy has invited the Refuge Committee to send two experts to Washington to participate in the May 13th meeting with Interior officials. The travel expenses for these two experts will exhaust the committee's treasury. Yet, if Dingell keeps his word, the Committee still has to find money to send two, and possibly three, experts to Washington in June to testify at the House hearings.

Thus, the Wildlife Refuge Committee must raise at least an additional \$1500 by mid-June. This is a formidable task, and help is desperately needed. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE whatever you can in money and/or time to the Wildlife Refuge Committee, P.O. Box 4386, San Jose 95126. For further information contact Nancy Holmes, 843 Moana Ct., Palo Alto 94306 (948-3262) or Jerry Grow, 423 James Rd, Apt. 6, Palo Alto (327-3820).

FIELD TRIP REPORTSCoyote Hills, May 8.

A dozen hardy souls showed up at 7:30 a.m. to prove that it pays off to wake at dawn and walk to where birds are undisturbed. By 2 p.m. we had seen 79 species. A little rain and a steep hill dampened spirits at first, but the sun soon came out. Flowers were so thick that it was impossible to avoid stepping on a few. The birds included good views of baby Coots and Mallards; Northern Phalaropes, White-tailed Kites, Marsh Hawks, Cinnamon Teal, Great Horned Owl, Bullock's Oriole & Nashville and Black-throated Grey Warblers. In addition, the last hardy few saw Wilson's Phalarope, Snowy Plover, Knots and Dunlin; all in brilliant summer plumage. Next year we'll get up earlier, and try for 100 species.

..Richard Carlson

Duveneck Ranch Beginner Trip, May 2.

The trip was certainly successful. We had great publicity, thanks to Gerald Grow, so people came from far and near, about 100 in all, to learn more about birds, plants, open space, watersheds, and the Audubon Society. Thanks to Lili Estrada, Dick Carlson, Courtney Dawson-Roberts and Ruth Troetschler for leading.

The Education Committee plans a family walk for beginners with small children at Palo Alto Baylands in the fall, and at least two more beginner trips for young people and not-so-young people; especially for the general public in 1971-72.

--Nancy Holmes

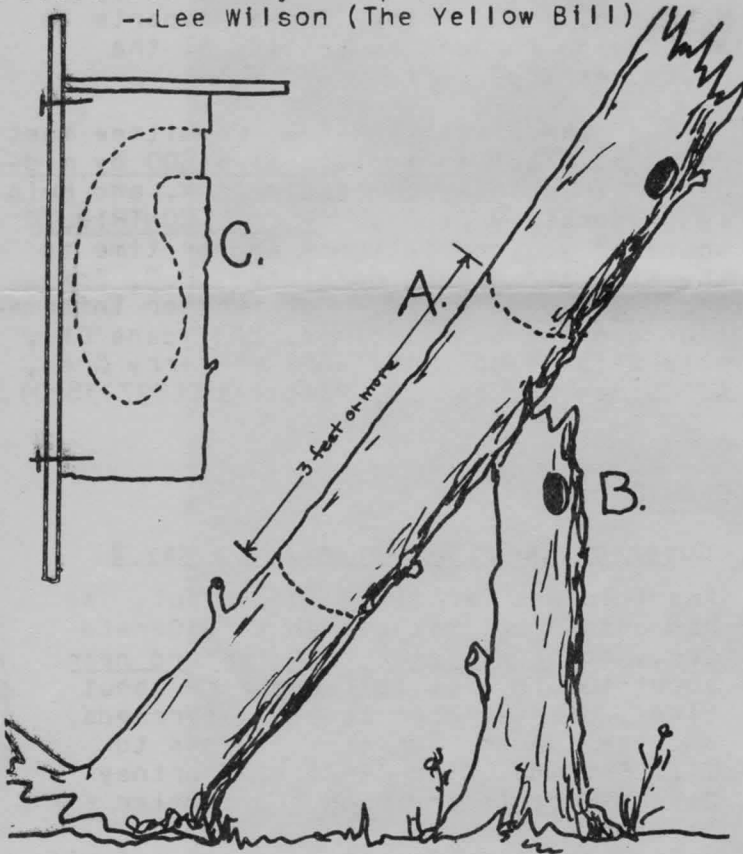
WOODPECKERS IN THE CITY

Have you ever tried to satisfy the needs of a woodpecker? Ready built bird houses are usually rejected, but here is a solution.

In your bird wanderings look for a fallen tree (or large limb) that has been used as a woodpecker nest. Take a section as at (A) and put a bracket on it as at (C) being careful to put nails only at the top and bottom. Add a roof for shelter and make a hole through the bark only to suggest a place for the bird to start. Do not use a standing tree such as (B), since this may be used again.

The woodpeckers will hollow out your section as (C) and nest there. It should be mounted on a building, pole or tree (the higher the better). In view of a window, it is fun. My first attempt raised three baby woodpeckers.

--Lee Wilson (The Yellow Bill)



CRUDE OILS from different sources have different toxicities, and toxicity varies with temperature. Alaska crude oil is one of the most toxic, particularly at Arctic temperatures. Current plans call for shipping Alaskan crude oil to continental U.S. by tanker.

OIL SPILL

An in-depth study of a 1969 Massachusetts oil spill comparable in size to the recent San Francisco Bay spill has shown that damage may be far more lasting and serious than is generally believed. The study revealed that the oil is persistent and destructive to marine organisms; that it enters the marine food chain and is concentrated in the fatty parts of the organisms. Blue Mussels that were juveniles at the time of the spill were sterile the next season, and distant areas not first contaminated were found to later have been polluted. Further, it was found that bacterial decomposition of the oil was least effective for the most poisonous compounds in the oil. It had been thought that many of the immediately toxic low-boiling aromatic hydrocarbons would evaporate rapidly, but these hydrocarbons found their way into the sediments and organisms, suggesting that the importance of evaporation has been overestimated. Finally, oil may concentrate other fat-soluble poisons, such as many insecticides and chemical intermediates. Dissolved in the oil film, these poisons may reach concentrations many times higher than usual, and become available to surface organisms and enter the food chain. (Environment)

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Stevens Creek, April 25

On a sunny, windless day the twenty birders who met at the reservoir were outnumbered by fishermen. In fact the fishermen even outnumbered the birds which included Caspian Terns, Mallards, Cliff Swallows, Quail, Song Sparrows and Wrentits.

From the reservoir, the group drove to the Park-entrance Picnic Area where birding was very good. A short easy walk up "Creek Trail" to the bridge added a few more species, but the green foliage which made the walk pleasant, also helped to hide the birds, and diligent searching was required.

Birding at the bridge was somewhat easier, and later we followed a loop of the newly constructed Nature Trail from Sycamore Group Area through a variety of different habitats.

Birds seen in the park included, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow & Orange-crowned Warblers; Hutton's, Solitary, and Warbling Vireos; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees; California Thrasher, Brewer's Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Robin, White-breasted Nuthatch, Plain Titmouse, Starling and Acorn Woodpecker.

--Lloyd and Eve Case

RECYCLING

The Cupertino High School Ecology Club has set up recycling bins for glass, tin, and aluminum in the student parking lot by the tennis courts. (Stevens Creek & Finch near Wolf Rd.). Your wastes will benefit an adult Cupertino citizen who recycles glass and tin; and the club will use the money from the aluminum.

--Paul Denton, 329 Howard,
Santa Clara



"You simply separate all the organic stuff and bury it, then tin and aluminum cans for recycling, bundle your papers, remove the plastics..."

(Environment)

NATIONAL TIMBER SUPPLY ACT BACK

Rep. Griffin (Miss.) has reintroduced the National Timber Supply Act (H.R. 156), which asks for development of maximum timber productivity as soon as possible. Although conservationists helped to defeat this bill last year, President Nixon, by executive order, has authorized virtually the same timbering as the "defeated" bill.

PESTICIDE CONTROL BILLS

Before national lawmakers this year is H.R. 4152 and the identical S. 745, the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act which calls for pesticide control through registration of all pesticides in the categories of "general use", "restricted use", or "use by permit only". Hearings have been completed in the House Agricultural Committee and the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Forestry, but letters to the Chairmen, Rep. William Poage and Sen. McGee (as well as to your own senators and representatives) may still be helpful. Roland Clement, National Audubon Vice President for Biology testified in favor of the bills at both hearings, but the house committee scheduled one day for conservation and 14 days for industry and agriculture. (You can write to the committees for the record of the hearings and read for yourself what was said.)

PEST CONTROL

The Parks and Recreation Department of the city of Berkeley has recently given a grant to the Division of Biological Control at U.C. to use methods of biological control in place of chemical means to alleviate the city's insect problems. Berkeley's novel program was initiated last year, without funding by the Northern California Committee for Environmental Information. The program has already been effective in reducing the amounts of chemicals used by the Parks and Recreation Department for insect control. This year's funds will be concentrated on a study of linden aphids and their natural predators.

(Environment)

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY PROPOSED

AB 1157 will establish a conservation and Development agency for the nine counties of the Bay Area. Forty directly elected Trustees will have planning and enforcement powers.

In three years this agency must adopt a comprehensive plan containing all of the following:

- A Bay element (BCDC's plan)
- A Transportation element
- An Air Quality element
- A Water Quality element
- A Solid Waste element
- An Open Space element
- A Regional Park element

The Plan and each element must contain a step by step outline for implementation including: specific new state legislation, new local ordinances, new regional agencies or consolidation of existing agencies, and, sources of funds to implement the plan.

While developing its plans, the Agency will have power to enact ordinances to prevent cities, counties, districts and private persons from taking action inconsistent with Resources Plan being developed.

To learn more about this plan, write Congressman Knox or AREA/Open Space Action, 384 Post Street, Rm 203, San Francisco, 94108. 434-3958.

very interesting to me I liked
the blue heron the best I liked
the pickle weed too.

Dear Mrs. Hartman, April 2, 1971

I liked it when the
coagulls took the ducks food.
I liked the duck that had the
bonnet of feathers on top of his
head.

Thank you "and"
your slide and
are class room to
the duck pond. I enjoy
feeding the ducks. And
walking around the ducks.

or Mrs. Holmes
I thank you for taking your time in showing
me all kinds of birds. I also enjoyed
the nature hike. You are so sweet
pretty and you smell beautiful.

allard and the Mudhen,
and the Sparrow and the
Killdeer and the Stilt and
the cordgrass and pickle
weed. And special
you are beautiful.
yours truly Jim C

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT

Again this year we helped a large number of children and adults visit the Baylands; 61 field trips for 1537 children accompanied by 202 adults. Also 1789 children with 216 adults attended the slide talk on the bay. In addition there were "backyard" lectures to 34 adults and 161 children and other field trips for 16 adults and 60 children.

Our committee members are to be congratulated for hard work, sense of humor, and flexibility, especially during busy, busy March and April. They are: Jo Combe and Althea Powers; two new welcome additions; and long-standing faithfuls; Courtney Dawson-Roberts, Yvonne Kortum, Janet Fisher, Carolyn Zabel, Lili Estrada and Florence La Riviere. In San Jose, Mary McPherson gave numerous slide lectures on garden birds and Diane Conradson led three field trips for youth leaders.

Personally, I am very proud of this group. To hundreds of school children, they represent "Audubon". They are wonderful saleswomen for the Society, so when you meet them, let them know that you are proud of them. If you wish to join this happy throng, please let me know.

--Nancy Holmes, Chairman

A SUMMER OPPORTUNITY

California Field Ornithologist's July Pelagic Trip; Saturday, July 17, 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Cost \$20/members and \$22.50/non-members. Destination: San Clemente Island and/or local Albacore fishing grounds. Boat will depart from Seaforth Sportfishing Landing, Quivira R., Mission Bay, San Diego. Please arrive by 5:30 a.m. Expected species may include Red-bill Tropicbird, Least Petrel & Craveri's Murrelet as well as the usual Black-footed Albatross; Pink-footed, Sooty & Pale-footed Shearwaters; Black & Leach's Petrels; Northern & Red Phalarope; Pomarine Jaeger, Arctic Tern, Xantus Murrelet and Cassin's Auklet.

Reservations close July 1. Make check to California Birds; enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for confirmation and details. Mail to: Clifford Lyons, P.O. Box 369, Del Mar, Calif. 92014. 714-272-9382.

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